agreed that the next round of talks would be Vield in Islamabad in January]February, 1989.

Barring occasional exchange of fire, there have been no clashes in Siachen area during September and October, 1988.

Clearance of Irrigation Projects of Andhra Pradesh

554. DR G VIJAYA MOHAN RED DY: Will the Minister of WATER RE SOURCES be pleased t_0 state:

ia) whether it is a ifact that *eleven* major and equal number of medium irrigation projects of Andhra Pradesh, are lying pending for clearance the Central Government; and

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact float the Union Government have asked the State Government to inform whether it had the wherewithal to execute these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) No, Sir. Presently only six Major and six Medium projects are pending clearance.

(b) No such information has been requested for from the State Government.

Sex Determination tests in Ahmedabad

555. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minisled of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to figures given by Forum against Sex determination that 10,000 female foetuses are destroyed every year in Ahmedabad; and

(b) if so, what measures Government proposes to tate to put an end to this practice?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) and (b) No such report has been received in this Ministry. The exact incidence »f femal 'foeticide aft»r sex determination tests is not known as no study in this regard has been carried out. The abortion of female foetuses following sex determination tests is social problem. There is a need for social awareness in this regard. Gove-nment has taken steps to improve the status of women in the society Department of Women and Child Development in the Ministry of Human Resaurce Development has been actively engaged in raising the status of women Issues like female literacy, women's employment, raising mean age of marriage, of girls, improvement in the health status of women etc. are some of the important thrusts being undertaken in different programmes of the Government.

The Government of India constituted a Small Committee to go into the various aspects for regulating the use of sejx de-termination tests. The committee suggested a draft Bill which has been sent tO' the State|UTs. j

Deaths due to Encephalitis in Gorarhpur, Uttar Pradesh

556. SHRl VIRENDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware ot the daily deaths of a large number of persons due to encephalitis ranging in virulent form in the Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what steps have heen taken-by Government to provide central assistance to the Government of Uttar Pradesh to fight and eradicate the disease?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) Yes.

(b) Central Government has provided" assistance in the form of insecticides and equipment, fogging machines and also technical guidance by sending team of experts from National Institute of Communicable Diseases[National Malaria Eradication Programme.

In addition, Government Medical Stores Depots have provided medicines and equipment on the basis of indents received from the State Governments.